Gains from five days a week in Government Offices

1550. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the gains from the introduction of five days a week so far in Government offices;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that absenteism among the staff and officers of all categories at 9 a.m. is more than 90 per cent; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to enforce punctuality in offices if this scheme is to be continued?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The 5-days week system was introduced in the context of improving efficiency in administration. However, two quick studies have revealed certain incidental benefits of this system as listed below:

(i) operational efficiency of public transport system has improved;

(ii) favourable response from employees;

(iii) saving in overall fuel and a power consumption.

(b) The studies mentioned above *inter-alia* revealed that punctuality in attendance has not suffered, by and large, in the five days a week system.

(c) Appropriate instructions already exist to ensure punctuality and regular attendance in offices.

Inclussion of NRTC projects in the 8th Five Year Plan

1551. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has received proposal for the construction of the Ghazipur - Balia - Chapra-Hajipur-Mohama-Farakka; Patna-Muzaffarpur Sonbarsa-Bhitamorh and the Parhat-Katihar-Harishchandrapur projects from the National Road Transport Development Council for including in Eighth Five Year Plan; if so the details thereof;

(b) how long it would take to approve and include them in the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether the said projects would be implemented in the Eigth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise

Re-thinking on the use of Atomic Energy

1552. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the re-thinking being done in the developed countries on the use of nuclear energy;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is cost-effective in our country, as compared to the investment made so far in the generation of atomic energy?

THE Minister of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) Government is aware that in certain countries there has been a slowing down of nuclear power programme for various reasons, including that of low requirement for additional power and pressures related to environmental and safety considerations. In certain countries like France, nuclear power contributes almost 80 per cent of the electricity generation. More stations are being added there in order to export electricity. Govt. has a responsibility to meet energy needs of the country for